(c) if so, what steps have been taken to reduce the number of pending cases and with what results; and

(d) whether some advice is being given to States to set up similar Tribunals for service disputes of State Government employees; if so, in what form and if not, what are reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There are 14 Benches of the Central Administrative Tribunal presently functioning from different parts of the Country. 5 Benches were initially set up on 1.11.85, 3 more benches were set up on 3.3.86 and 6 more benches on 30.6.86.

(b) The number of cases pending before various Benches of the Central Administrative Tribunal as on 30.6.88 is 23,639. It may not be possible to infer that the speed of disposal has slowed down because number of cases freshly instituted and transferred from other Courts has also been varying ever since the Central Administrative Tribunal was set up.

(c) In order to facilitate speedy disposal of cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal, the Government have already decided to appoint more Vice-Chairman and Members. It has also been decided to open additional benches at Lucknow and Jaipur.

(d) Section 4(2) of the Administrative tribunals Act, 1985, provides for setting up of Administrative Tribunals for the States on receipt of specific request from the respective State Government. States Administrative Tribunals have already been set up in Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh as per above provisions.

Refusal by Pak to return Indian National

1183. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 6th July, 1988 regarding refusal of the Pak Government to return the two boys, who accidentally strayed into Pakistan while picking berries in Kanackak border area, even though they have completed the term of their imprisonment; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have made a request to the Government of Pakistan for the early repatriation of the two boys.

Indians killed in Northern Somali

1184. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Indian nationals have been killed in Hargeisa, Northern Somalia in the Somali National Movement agitation recently;

(b) if so, what are the total number of Indians killed there during the last three months; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Indian Embassy to protect the lives of Indians there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) and (b) Five Indian nationals were killed in Hargeisa, Northern Somalia in the fighting between Government Forces and the Somali National Movement fighters in June, 1988.

(c) In cooperation with the local administration and the UNDP, the Indian Embassy arranged for the evacuation of Indian national from Hargeisa. They were flown to Mogadiscio and have been accommodated with families living there. According to our information there are now no Indian nationals in Hargeisa except for one teacher who has opted to stay on there.

Commissioning of Betwa Dam Project

1185. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commissioning of inter-State Betwa Dam Project on the border of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh has been delayed by six years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for early commissioning of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The main reasons are constraint in availability of funds which are to be contributed by the two participating States and shortage of personnel which are to be drawn from the two State Governments. Both the State Governments have been pursuaded to contribute the funds and also depute personnel to the Board.

Purchase of Weapons by Shri Lanka from Pakistan

1186. SHRI HARI SINGH:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 13th June, 1988 that Sri Lanka is proposing to purchase heavy weaponry items worth about dollar 150 million from Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have no specific information on the accuracy of this press report. However, Government are aware that Sri Lanka has been acquiring military supplies as well as military training facilities from several sources, including Pakistan. Government have been monitoring such developments closely in the context of the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement.

Finalisation of Vamshadhara Project Phase-II

1187. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI Y. SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by the Central Government to convene the meeting of the Chief Ministers of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh to finalise the Vamshadhara Project Phase-II;